

~~SECRET PIVOT~~

SERVICES DIVISION INDICATIONS JOURNAL

14 April 1955

1. General - Economic - Formaldehyde  
(Info Date - March-April 1955)

25X1



S/PM and M/Ch Comment: The total of 150 tons of formaldehyde, while not a large amount, is part of a fairly steady shipment of this chemical to China. M/Ch considers the amount of formaldehyde currently being imported by China to be higher than would be expected for normal civilian uses.

Possible military uses of formaldehyde include the production of RDX, one of the best explosives available, and an explosive which China is known to be producing. In reaction with ammonia, formaldehyde can be converted to hexamethylenetetramine, which can be converted into RDX on a one to one ratio after reaction with nitric acid.



25X1

~~SECRET PIVOT~~